GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4285
ANSWERED ON:21.04.2003
CONSERVATION OF SOIL IN CATCHMENT AREAS
SHRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government to conserve soil in the catchment areas of dams due to declining storage capacity of dams;

(b) whether any measures to reduce run off of water has been taken in the catchment areas; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY)

(a) to (c) The Natural Resources Management Division of Ministry of Agriculture is implementing two schemes namely
(i) Soil Conservation for enhancing agricultural productivity of degraded land in the catchments of Rivers Valley Project and Flood Prone Rivers and
(ii) Watershed Development Project in Shifting Cultivation in the country with main objectives as under:

- Reduction of runoff from the catchments to reduce peak flow
- Prevention of Soil loss from watershed
- Improve land capability and moisture regime
- Creation of awareness for catchment core

This inter-alia results in conservation of soil in the catchment areas of dams and reducing runoff in the catchment area. One of the activities under these programmes is construction of water harvesting structures in catchments. This helps farmers in generating rain water resource for life saving irrigation for crops etc. This programme is being implemented in all the States in the country.